GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6433
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Electronic System to detect Earthquakes
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install any electronic system to measure the intensity of earthquakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the way by which earthquake forecast is likely to be improved by the same;

(c) the time by which said system is likely to be installed;

(d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines about construction of houses particularly in earthquake prone areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) At present National Centre of Seismology (NCS) , Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), maintains a National Seismological Network (NSN) comprising of 84 (eighty four) digital (Electronic) permanent seismological field stations.

NCS is in process of installation of 31 more new seismological observatories. The new seismological observatories state-wise are Haryana (4), Uttarakhand (1), Delhi (3), Jummu & Kashmir (2), Himachal Pradesh (3), Uttat Pradesh (5), Jharkhand (1), Bihar (4), West Bengal (1), Punjab (1) and Rajasthan (2), Madhya Pradesh (2), Chhattisgarh (1) and Lakshdweep (1). These observatories will have digital broadband seismograph system with VSAT communication. However, there is no proven scientific technique available anywhere in the world till date, to forecast the occurrence of earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude. The Ground motion data recorded by the digital seismograph are used for estimation of magnitude and other earthquake parameters. It may be reiterated that the present set up is not used for forecasting earthquakes.

(c) New (31) seismological observatories will be installed by March 2018.

(d) Yes Madam.

(e) Guidelines have been published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) etc for design and construction of earthquake resistant structures to minimize loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes. These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and administrative authorities responsible for design and construction of earthquake resistant houses / structures in earthquake prone areas.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), other state Disaster Management Authorities, have also taken up various initiatives to educate and bring awareness amongst general public and school children on the general aspects of earthquakes, their impacts and measures to mitigate losses caused by them.